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GRAND RAPIDS, OHIO.



A Souvenir of the Past and Present.



JULY, 1897.



Where the river bending eastward
Leaveth islands in the lee,
Shore and islands clad in verdure,
Maple, elm and willow tree;
Where the gurgling waters answer
To the whisper of the breeze;
On the margin of the river,
'Neath the shadow of the trees;
Where the never failing harvest,
Lucious fruit and golden grain,
Crowns the summit of the hillocks,
And with glory fills the plain;
There in beauty, peace and plenty
Is the village of our pen,
And from thence whoever wanders
Will with gladness come again.

G. A. B.



FLOYD D. HUFFMAN,
PUBLISHER.

GRAND RAPIDS, OHIO.

SITUATED on the south bank of the Maumee, twenty-five miles south-west of Toledo. The location is the most romantic and beautiful in Ohio. Just opposite the village are the historic Maumee rapids. Here was the favorite hunting and fishing grounds of the red men; here they built their wigwams, and here they buried their dead. Here the river widens to a distance of 2,000 feet, and here the state, in 1845 built what is known as the Providence dam, extending from the south shore to Island No. 1, and from thence, diagonally, to the north shore, making above a slackwater of more than eighteen miles in length by one-fourth mile in width, and navigable at all seasons for ordinary river steamers.

In the fall of 1823 Ambrose Rice, who was county surveyor of Wood county, discovered this beautiful site for a village, and associating himself with John Hollister, they jointly, on May 14, 1824, secured patent from the U. S. Government for the fractional quarter section, lying just at the head of the rapids, and upon which the original village was platted. When, however, the patents had been secured, Rice found other matters calling his attention, and within a few days he quitclaimed to Hollister for a consideration of \$140. Hollister held the property until June 3rd, 1833, making no improvements, but seeking a customer. At this date John N. Graham, a shrewd New Englander, being impressed with the natural beauty of the location, gave Hollister \$1,200 for a quitclaim of the premises, and immediately had a village surveyed and

platted, and to which he gave the name of Gilead.

The Record of the Original Plat recorded in Vol. "B," page 362 of the record of deeds of Wood county, is as follows:

"Laid out on the south bank of the Maumee river at the head of the Grand Rapids, on the north-east quarter of section seven, in township No. five, north, range No. nine east, in the county of Wood and state of Ohio, under the direction of John N. Graham, proprietor, and surveyed by Ambrose Rice, surveyor of the said county of Wood, in the month of June A. D. 1833, and protracted upon a scale of 100 feet to the inch; commencing at the intersection of a cross on an interred stone at the north-east angle of lot No. 9 of section No. 5."

"Description.—The streets and alleys cross each other at right angles and have their courses north 13 west and north 77 east; being run at the variation of 3.45 from the lines of the general survey of the township. The streets are each 80 feet wide, except Front street, which is 100 feet wide. The alleys are each 20 feet wide. The lots north of Front street are 55 feet wide and 100 feet deep, all of the lots south of Front street are 50 feet wide and 150 feet deep."

"But it is understood expressly that the said John N. Graham reserves to himself, or his heirs or assigns, the right to use 40 feet in breadth of Front street opposite and adjoining the mill site for depositing lumber, etc. Provided, also, that the view shall never be obstructed by building thereon; and

GRAND LAKES, OHIO.

plotted, and so which he gave the name of Grand Lake.

The Record of the Original Platting of Grand Lake, Vol. 1, page 385 of the Record of deeds of Wood county, is as follows:

"I laid out on the south bank of the Grand Lake river at the head of the Grand Rapids on the northern quarter of section seven, to Township No. 15 north, Range No. 10 east, in the county of Wood and state of Ohio, under the direction of John N. Hollister, proprietor, and surveyed by Andrew Reed, surveyor of the county of Wood, in the month of June A. D. 1834, and plotted upon a scale of 100 feet to the inch, commencing at the intersection of a cross on an ironed stone at the northeast angle of lot No. 3 of section No. 5."

"Description.—The streets and alleys cross each other at right angles and have their corners north 15 west and north 75 east, being run at the general survey of the township. The streets are each 30 feet wide, except from street which is 100 feet wide. The alleys are each 20 feet wide. The lots north of River street are 55 feet wide and 100 feet deep, all of the lots south of River street are 30 feet wide and 100 feet deep."

"That it is understood expressly that the said John N. Hollister reserves to himself, or his heirs or assigns, the right to use 20 feet in breadth of River street opposite and adjoining the mill site for depositing lumber, etc. Provided, also, that the view shall never be obstructed by building thereon; and

IT IS STATED on the south bank of the Grand Lake river, in the township of Grand Lake, in the county of Wood, Ohio, that the most romantic and beautiful in Ohio, just opposite the village are the historic Allegheny rapids. Here was the favorite landing and starting place of the red men, before they built their wigwags, and here they buried their dead. From the river wharf to a distance of 500 feet, and here the canal, in 1835 built, what is known as the Providence dam, cut off from the south shore to Island No. 1 and from thence, diagonally, to the north shore, making above a shoalwater of more than eighteen miles in length, by one-fourth mile in width, and navigating at all seasons for ordinary river steamers."

In the fall of 1835 Andrew Reed, who was county surveyor of Wood county, discovered this beautiful site for a village, and associated himself with John Hollister, they jointly, on May 14, 1834, secured patent from the U. S. Government for the fractional quarter section lying just at the head of the rapids, and upon which the original village was plotted. When, however, the patents had been secured, Reed found other matters calling his attention, and withdrew in a few days he contributed to Hollister for a consideration of \$100. Hollister sold the property upon June 3rd, 1835, making no improvements, but seeking a customer. At this time John N. Reed had returned from England, being impressed with the natural beauty of the location, gave Hollister \$1,300 for a purchase of the premises, and immediately had a village surveyed and

that he reserves in like manner the right to turn the course of Shell brook, which passes over the plat, and conduct the same by the western boundry of West street to the Maumee river. There is also granted and conveyed to the purchasers of lots in section No. 7 the right to use the mill race for warehouse purposes."

"I do hereby certify the above to be a correct plat and description of said town of Gilead, by me made as above stated." (Signed).

JOHN N. GRAHAM.

"Signed, sealed and acknowledged in the presence of.

J. C. Spink, (Seal).
Jars. Spafford.

"State of Ohio, Wood County, ss:

On this 3rd day of June, 1833 personally came before me, John C. Spink, a Justice of the Peace, in and for said county, John N. Graham, who acknowledged the above plot of the town of Gilead, as laid out and represented above, to be his free act and deed for the purposes therein expressed, and that the streets, alleys and public grounds, as thereby represented, are so intended and considered, and as such he acknowledges the same.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year above written."

(Signed) J. C. Spink,
Justice of the Peace.

"I do hereby certify the above to be a correct plat and description of the said town by me made as above stated."

(Signed). Ambrose Rice,
Surveyor.

Perrysburg, June 3rd, 1833

"Filed for Record June 3rd, 1833."

In 1833 and 4 Graham built a dam and mill race, and also a saw mill with a set of burrs for grinding corn attach-

ed.

In 1836 James Purdy, an attorney of Mansfield, Ohio, secured the premises for a consideration of \$40,000. Purdy continued the improvements of Graham, widening and deepening the mill race and building a new dam across the south channel to Island No. 1. He enlarged the mill and put in two saws, so that he was able to turn out about 3,000 feet of lumber daily.

In February, 1837 Purdy sold the property to Lysander Spooner, the consideration named in the deed being \$55,000. No money was paid down, but seven notes were given, as follows: 3 notes of \$5,000 each, all payable at July 1, 1837, and 4 notes of \$10,000 each, the first payable January 1, 1838 and the others following each six months thereafter. It will be remembered that a few years prior to 1837 the banking laws of the country were arranged upon the plan of that large class of good people who argue that wealth can be created by the stroke of a pen or the stamp of a coin. Under this beautiful system all that was necessary to start a bank was a printing press and plenty of paper and ink. In those good old days money grew on every bush, as the saying is; in fact money was so plenty that nobody cared particularly to have it, and the business of the country was done almost entirely upon credit. Finally, however, about March, 1837 some fellow over in York State wanted his money, and, not caring for the "Red Dog" and "Wildcat" varieties, he demanded coin. Well, there wasn't coin enough in that country to satisfy his little claim, and his debtors attempted to get coin on their little claims some place else where there wasn't anything but CONFIDENCE to be

had, and their debtors tried it in turn, and behold it was found that the "Red Dog" and "Wildcat" were creatures of wind. Now, in consequence of that fellow over in York state wanting his money, Mr. Spooner's money turned to ashes, and he could not pay Mr. Purdy. Then Mr. Purdy brought suit in foreclosure and for damages. Now, to illustrate the difference of values in SOFT money times and HARD money times, the fractional quarter section which Mr. Purdy paid \$40,000 for, and which he sold within six or eight months for \$55,000, was appraised in 1842 by order of the court and found to be worth about \$14,000; and two years later, in 1844, the whole business would not have brought half that sum. However, Mr. Purdy won his suit, got his property back, and also a judgement for \$50,000 damages. This big judgment, like a fiat dollar, looks very nice on paper, but when it is known that it was utterly worthless, and that Mr. Purdy had to pay all the costs of the suit, then that's different.

In 1845 the state dam was built, and, in consequence, Mr. Purdy's wing dam was rendered entirely useless. However, a compromise was effected by the state building the "Gilead Side-Cut," making the finest water power in the country, and, what was of more value, making the village a canal port with navigable waters from the Ohio river to Lake Erie. Right here the question arises as to how Front street, which Mr. Graham's plat and description declares to be 100 feet wide, become only 80 feet in width, as it is at this date. Did the construction of the side-cut encroach so far on the lots in Section No. 7, that the owners thereof, past and present, determined to have their 100 feet in

depth of lot in any event, and thus took part of the street—or how was it?

In 1848, Mr. Purdy built the big grist mill, the best in the country, and the people scattered over many miles of country came to Gilead to mill. This and many other local enterprises gave a great impetus to trade, and from 1848 to 1873, with little exceptions, the village prospered. In 1868 the people thought the name "Gilead" entirely too modest for our immensity, and the name Grand Rapids was chosen.

Who Were the Pioneers?

Few communities can boast of progenitors equal in intelligence and sturdy integrity with those of Grand Rapids and vicinity. The first settlers were largely from York state. First of importance we have the Howards, Thomas and his three sons, Edward, Robert and Richard, the first being the father of Hon. D. W. H. Howard, who resides in Fulton county, and who knows more of the early days of the Maumee Valley than any other person now living. In 1831 William Howard, a brother of Thomas, came from Seneca county, N. Y. He was the father of Charlotte Howard (afterwards Mrs. Wm. Pratt) who taught the first school in this (then Weston) township, for which she received the quite moderate salary of one dollar per week, and "boarded 'round." Then there were the Pratts, Jonas and William, together with their sister, Jane, the latter living at this date, and known, esteemed and loved by the entire community, as Aunt Jane Hinsdale.

Jonas Pratt married the widow of Wm. Griffith in 1831. He was sheriff

of Wood county. In 1836 they moved on to the farm a mile above this village and where Mr. Pratt died, 1852. The descendants of Jonas Pratt are among the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of the "Rapids" to-day. Jane, the eldest daughter, married Geo. P. Crosby. She is still living and resides with her son, Frank A. Crosby, on Front street. Caroline married Dr. Watson, recently deceased, and now resides in her elegant home at McComb, O. Mary married Stephen S. Laskey. She has been deceased some years. Ann married B. F. Kerr, who is known as the most prosperous, and leading business man of the village to-day. Mr. and Mrs. Kerr are barely in the prime of life, have a family they may well be proud of, and their home is perhaps the finest in Wood county. Wm. Pratt married Charlotte Howard, heretofore referred to, and for many years lived upon the big farm which adjoins the corporation limits on the west. Both are deceased. Jane Pratt married Francis Hinsdale, who was the first merchant of considerable standing in the community. Mr. Hinsdale died in 1851. Aunt Jane Hinsdale resides with her brother-in-law, Geo. P. Hinsdale, at Toledo. She has had a motherly care for Grand Rapids and its people for nearly fifty years, and is one of the grandest women ever created.

Of the Howards who were particularly identified with the village, Anjanette, daughter of Edward, and sister of D. W. H., here-to-fore referred to, married Geo Laskey, who succeeded Francis Hinsdale as the leading merchant, and who for nearly forty years was one of the most successful and distinguished business men in North-western Ohio. He was a state senator in the fifties.

Mr. Laskey amassed a large fortune and retired from active business some years ago. He and Mrs. Laskey now resides in their elegant home on Collingwood avenue, Toledo.

Later than the foregoing came a considerable number, who as business or professional men have been intimately connected with the affairs of the village in the past. There was Emanuel Arnold, who built the first tannery in this part of the country. He began business early in the thirties. He was of a stern, taciturn disposition, but a man of the strictest integrity. He has been deceased many years. Then there was William Gruber who operated Mr. Purdy's grist mill for many years, and who was the father of Mrs. John H. Fisher and Mrs. Jay L. Gillett, his only children yet living. Nicholas Gee was among the first traders, and was in partnership with Francis Hinsdale when the latter first began business.

Among the early physicians were Dr. Burritt, Dr. Breece, Dr. J. N. Mead, Dr. G. W. Bell, Dr. Wm. M. Bell and Dr. A. J. Gardner. Then there were the McDonald's, Seth, John and Clark, who were engaged in various enterprises; milling, merchandising, etc. Geo. Hosplehorn was a miller at Otsego, and later at the Rapids. He afterward engaged in the grocery trade. Chas. Bucklin was in trade here in the early fifties and was succeeded by Jerry Atkinson and B. L. Ashley. Robt. Mead, brother of Dr. J. N. Mead, did a grocery business here in an early day, and afterward kept hotel. T. J. Sterling opened the first blacksmith shop of any importance. The Cloud brothers had a tin shop in the old Hinsdale stand, and were succeeded by James J. Vorhes and R. C. O'Donald. Jacob Heeter came about

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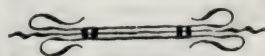
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'56, and for years did the boot and shoe making for a big scope of country. Jeremiah Peters was among the first stone cutters, and the foundation of the Purdy mills still stands as a monument to his memory. Capt. John H. Fisher was on the ground at a comparatively early date. He for a time engaged in boating, then engaged in trade; afterwards he did an extensive saw milling and lumber business. The Capt. at this date resides on his farm adjoining the village on the east. Jacob Hachenberger, though something beyond the three score and ten years allotted to man, is still actively engaged in the cabinet and undertaking business which he opened here nearly fifty years ago.

In the carpenter and cabinet making line were Alphens and Chas. Davis, Samuel Bossard, Allen Bortle, Lewis Bortle, Joshua Randolph, and others. In hotel keeping we have first the Howard House or "Stone Tavern," the stone part of which was taken down years ago by D. W. H. Howard and the stone hauled away to his Fulton county estate. Then the Hutchinson House which stood at the top of the hill on Main street. It was a large double frame and was torn down by the Arnolds years ago. In the fifties Warren Lamb opened a hotel in a new frame building which is now a part of the Jerry Huffman stand. Robert Mead succeeded him. Clark McDonald opened the first drug store, and was succeeded by Beardsley & Watson. Dr. Gardner opened about 1860, and has been here continuously since. The "Rapids" never was a desirable location for lawyers; the writer remembers but two of any standing, Major McKinley, not the president, but an old veteran of the Mexican war, was the first and had his

office in the side room of Bucklin's store. Then came John E. McGowan, afterwards a Captain in the Union army, and now publishing a paper in Tennessee.

Of the pioneers not immediately identified with the village, but who were of the community, and whose descendants are still with us, we have on the banks of Beaver Creek: James Donaldson, Alex Brown, John McKee, John Carson, Henry Kimberlin, Alex Peugh and James Martin. Then in the same general direction were the Crows, the Dulls, the Walters, the Guyers, the Rowlands, the Bortles, Benj. Olney and others. Down the river was Joel Foote, John Fowler and Ed. Gallagher. Up the river was Bela Bennett, Patrick Reagan, John Savage, (succeeded by Selah A. Bacon), Jonas Pratt, J. G. Culbertson and the Daileys. On Big Creek were the Hockmans, the Shepherds, the Weavers, Jacob Beaver, McClures, Foltz, Wilcoxes, Jerry Bortle, the Kinneys and others. On the Lucas county side was Peter Manor, or Minor, as the old gentleman signed himself. Peter Manor was raised by the Indians and when they ceded their land to the U. S. they reserved one section at the head of the Grand Rapids for Peter Manor; and a goodly portion of that land is still owned by the widow of his son Frank, a most excellent lady, who resides there. Few, if any, of the Lucas county side remain. The vast majority are mouldering in their tombs, and their descendants are scattered.





WILL.



CLYDE.

KATON BROS.

William W. and Clyde E. Katon, sons of John J. and Charlotte R. (Kerr) Katon, were born on the home farm in Grand Rapids township, "Will" on Nov. 8, 1870 and Clyde January 16, 1876. The boys grew up on the farm and attended the common schools until Clyde was about twelve years old, when, on account of the father's health the farm was leased and the family removed to the Rapids. "Will," who was now about eighteen, began clerking in the general store of Mr. B. F. Kerr, and Clyde entered the Grand Rapids schools and graduated therefrom. "Will" was employed with Mr. Kerr about four years, when, on January 5, 1893, he married Miss Flora, daughter of Sam'l Henry and Margaret (Guyer) Weaver, and leased the home farm. About the same time Clyde started in the retail grocery trade, having had some experience in the business as

an employee of Fred Heeter, of this place, and J. E. Clark, of Weston. In the spring of 1897, "Will" joined Clyde in the purchase of the big Hausley grocery and meat market, and which they are operating at this date under the style of "Katon Bros."

The Katon Bros. are young men of correct habits and good business ability. They carry a heavy stock of standard groceries, everything in the line of Provisions, Tobaccos, Cigars, Confections, Queensware, Glassware, Foreign and Domestic Fruits, etc. They make a specialty of fresh meats, and with two mammoth refrigerators are able at all times to serve their customers with steaks, roasts, cutlets, etc., which are perfect in condition, clean, healthful and appetizing. They pay the highest price for country produce. When in the Rapids call at the big grocery store of the Katon Bros. "The best of everything at the lowest possible price," is their motto.



JAMES H. WILLIAMS,

Was born April 9, 1856 at Middlesex, Ontario, son of Edward and Elizabeth (Sharpe) Williams.

Mr. Williams was educated in the home schools, and, upon growing to manhood, learned the carriage making trade. In August, 1886 he married Amanda, daughter of James and Lydia (Louks) Rolph. In 1888 he came to the States, locating at Oak Harbor for a time, and afterward removing to Toledo. In Sept. 1890, he came to Grand Rapids. Mr. Williams is a natural artist, and his off-hand drawing has received much favorable comment for the past several years. For a time he confined his talent to artistic sign-writing, but about two years ago he erected the portrait studio on Beaver street and engaged in the business of photography. In this business he has made an unqualified success, and is numbered today among the leading photographers of the county. A large number of the cuts in this work are from photographs

by Mr. Williams.

It seems to be the impression among many good people that a camera, prepared plates and a few chemicals, with a knowledge of the manipulation of the same, is all that a person requires to become a photographer. There never was a greater mistake; the proper lighting and posing of the subject is an absolute necessity in good portraiture, and requires the eye of an artist; the remainder of the work is purely mechanical. And here lies the secret of Mr. Williams' success—he is an artist.

His gallery is fitted with the modern accessories, and he has that great desideratum, a north light, and can secure a depth and softness in his back-grounds, not other wise to be had.

The ordinary photographer simply makes prints, not portraits; the figures are flat, hard, and frequently distorted. Any person can do this kind of work with a week's practice. The artist, properly lighting and posing his subject, secures a deep, soft back-ground, and his figures are round, full and lifelike. All of Mr. Williams' work, whether portrait, group or landscape, bears the distinctive mark of the artist, not the mere mechanical operator. His prices are very low for the class of work done.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams are highly esteemed socially, and have a large circle of friends and acquaintances. They have a handsome home, and two pretty children.



AUGUSTINE PILLIOD, JR.,

Was born Nov. 24, 1861, at Napoleon, Ohio, son of Augustine and Emma Pilliod. About 1867 or 8 Mr. Pilliod, Sr., removed to Toledo, and opened, and for years operated, the great Pilliod Flouring Mills, well known all over Northwestern Ohio. In Toledo, our subject grew to manhood, receiving his education partially in the public schools and later at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. At Toledo, under the instructions of Calvin Harding, the noted expert, he learned the milling trade. It is a notable fact that all of the five sons of Augustine Pilliod, Sr., are at this date owners and operators of large, first-class flouring mills. L. N. and F. E. are located at Swanton, Ohio. Charles J. has a 250 barrel mill at Angola, Ind., and a 125 barrel mill at Orland, Ind. Henry has a 125 barrel mill at Fremont, Ind., and "Tine," our subject, is the owner of the big Providence Mills, with a capacity of 75 barrels per day, and using the

"long process." All of these men are practicable millers as well as mill owners. Their father was for years one of the leading millers of the country. He departed this life at a comparatively recent date.

In June 1881 A. Jr., married Grace E., the accomplished daughter of Geo. H. and Adaline (Harrison) Nort. In 1886 he purchased the Providence Mills, which he refitted with the latest improved machinery, and of which he has made a grand success, "Pearl" flour being found on sale at almost every point for miles around.

Mr. Pilliod is a live active man, delighting in games of skill and endurance, and is a leader in all athletic sports. In his younger days he was for six years a member of the famous Myers—afterward Toledo Cadets, and later served as 1st Sergeant of "C" Company, 16th Regt. O. N. G.

Mr. and Mrs. Pilliod are among the leaders of society in Grand Rapids, and their handsome and cosey home has been the scene of many delightful entertainments. Their union has been blest with three bright, intellectual children, Bessie, Hazel and Leo.

When the state built the Providence dam, and ruined Manor's water-power, a compromise was effected by the state entering into an agreement making the state water perpetually free to Mr. Manor, his heirs and assigns. Thus, at no expense for power, the Providence Mills have a great advantage over all other mills in the country. They can give their customers the greatest returns for the least money.



JOHN G. HUNTER.

Was born on the home farm in Champaign county, Ohio, in June, 1850. Son of Nathaniel and Helen (Purdy) Hunter. He remained on the farm until he had attained his majority. He was educated at Urbana and at the well known Normal school at Lebanon, O. On May 24, 1871 he married Mary E., daughter of Chas. C. and Margaret (Strayer) Cookston. In 1872 he opened a drug store in Delaware, Ohio, which he conducted for two years, when, finding the confinement irksome, he sold out and went on the road as a traveling salesman. About 1875 he returned to the farm and went into the business of breeding and exhibiting the celebrated "Rambolette Merino" sheep, a business in which he is well known in Central Ohio. Mr. Hunter is still owner of a goodly flock of these sheep, all full pedigreed, and which he will

exhibit at the larger fairs this fall. In the fall of '94 Mr. Hunter moved to Neapolis, O., for the purpose of clearing up some farm lands he owned in that vicinity. In April, 1898 he purchased the hotel property in the Rapids, which he refitted, and where he is conducting the best hotel the town has ever had. Mr. Hunter is pre-eminently a hotel man, always pleasant, prompt and obliging. He is a credit to the town, and is rapidly building up a good trade.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Hunter has been blessed with two children, Maude, who is now a young lady, and Charley, who is one of the brightest boys in town.

There is no other business which will advertise a town so well as a good hotel, and, unfortunately for Grand Rapids, there has existed here for many years a custom that has rendered the existence of a good hotel impossible of continuance. On the occasion of every considerable gathering of the people it has been the custom of one or other of the church societies to inaugurate and advertise cheap eating stands, thus robbing the hotel of its legitimate business, and of the chief profit there is in conducting a hotel business in a small place. It is extremely easy to make a profit on donated provisions and donated services. Seen in its true light, the custom is not only detrimental to the best interests of the town, but is unchristian. It is understood that, as soon as the business will warrant it, Mr. Hunter will erect a fine building, with all the accessories of a modern hotel. Every business man and every one owning property in the village should help to hasten the time.



JAMES McDONNALL

Was born in Thompson township, Delaware county, Ohio, Feb. 2nd 1853; son of Henry and Millinee McDonnall, who were of Scotch-Irish descent and came to the States from Canada in 1852. The subject of this sketch worked on the farm until he was sixteen years old, when the family removed to Richfield township, Henry county, where he continued farm work for sometime, and later purchased a well-drilling outfit. In this latter business he was quite successful, and did work over a large scope of country. On March 31st, 1884, he married Lillie E. Rowland, daughter of Jacob and Mary Rowland. In 1886 he removed to the state of Kansas, where for a time he did a very good business with his well boring machinery; but there are good times and bad times in that delectable country. In the summer of 1895 Jim figured the matter over and finding that there were several bad times to

each good time, he concluded that Ohio was good enough for him. So he came back to the old home in Richfield. Soon after he disposed of his farm property, taking in part payment three dwelling properties in Grand Rapids. The same fall he removed to this village and embarked in the hardware business. About January, 1896, Mr. McDonnall purchased the business property on Front street formerly owned by Israel Powell, and which had been the leading hardware stand of the town for many years. The building has been refitted throughout, and well stocked with everything desirable in a first-class hardware store and tinware establishment. He is sole agent for one of the leading paint manufacturies of the United States, and has become headquarters for paints and oils in this part of the country.

It is safe to say that no citizen of Grand Rapids ever made so many friends in so short a space of time as "Jim" McDonnall has. Always the same genial, straightforward, whole-souled man, his customers always come back, and bring their neighbors with them. Known as prompt pay, discounting all bills, manufacturers and jobbers are anxious to sell him, and he thus secures bargains not otherwise to be had. Mr. and Mrs. McDonnall are plain, every day people, and the best of neighbors. They have a lovely family of three children, Daisy, Scott J. and Clyde.





CLAUDE INMAN.

The well known transfer man and ice dealer of the Rapids, is a native of Wood county, being born at Tontogany, January 8, 1870, and is one of four children born to Norman and Delia (Lamb) Inman. The family removed to Toledo shortly after the birth of our subject, and he was educated in the public schools of that city, and resided there until he was twenty-two years of age. He was variously employed while at Toledo, and for a time worked in a feed store, but from childhood has been a great lover of horses, and preferred teaming to any other employment. In 1892 he came to the Rapids and entered into partnership with John Lamb in a livery and feed stable business, and continued in that business about one year, when he sold his interest and inaugurated the transfer business; which has been a success

from the beginning; and to-day, with his large, modern drays and heavy draft horses, he is prepared to handle anything in the line of his business. Up to two years ago it had been the custom in the Rapids for every man to put up his own ice, whether he wanted much or little, and Mr. Inman wisely concluded that people would be glad to buy ice if they could do so at a reasonable rate; and he, therefore, began putting up ice on a large scale. The result exceeded his expectations, and the present year, in addition to his family trade, he secured contracts with a number of the heaviest trade consumers.

Mr. Inman, while he has been a resident but little over five years, has made himself one of the most popular citizens of the Rapids. Always pleasant and obliging; always taking an active interest in public improvements; possessed of good judgment, and executive ability, he commands the respect of the community at large. He is a member of the village council, being elected in '96 by a sweeping majority. He is one of the principal promoters of the Grand Rapids Amusement Company, and was elected superintendent of the company's grounds, Elmwood Park, at the last annual election of officers.

August 21st, 1893, Mr. Inman was united in marriage with Miss Laura, daughter of George and Sarah (Forst) Davis. They own a comfortable home on West Front street, and have two bright little boys, Floyd and Glenn.





REV BENNARD DUPOY

Was born at Kentville, Ontario, in 1850. Son of Charles and Maria DuPoy. He attended the common schools until about fourteen years of age, when he was apprenticed to learn the trade of an iron moulder. He worked at this trade for some three years, when becoming dissatisfied he ran away and came to the States. His first location was at Mansfield, Ohio, where he stayed about twelve years. His first situation was in a shoe store, where he learned the shoemakers trade, working during the day and studying at night to better his education, which had been sadly neglected. Here, also, he first began to read law. At 1875 he had made good progress and accumulated some means. At this date he married Mary, daughter of Rev. Charles F. Kunnut. In 1879 he removed to Adario, in the same county, where he opened a small general store and also engaged in the practice of law. In 1884 he removed

to Greenwich, Huron county, O., and entered the ministry of the Christian Union church. The congregation being weak financially, he largely supported his family by clerking in the general store of Healey & Parker. His next location was at VanWert, Ohio, where he remained two years and then removed to Shafers Station Mercer county, O. Here he again opened a general store. Here he had the great misfortune to lose his wife. His next call was to the Bowling Green, Ohio, Circuit, where he remained two years, and married Miss Orma Conklin. He next went to Marseilles, Wyandot county, Ohio, where he remained three years. He then removed to a farm which he had purchased in Henry county, Ohio, where he remained two years, still engaged in the work of the ministry. About two years ago Mr. DuPoy came to the Rapids and purchased the furniture and undertaking business of C. C. Judson. He also entered into partnership with W. K. Evans in the agricultural implement business. He also helped to organize the DuPoy M'f'g Co., and of which he has been president since its organization. The company engaged in the manufacture and sale of a combined fanning mill, separator and elevator, which meets with the highest praise wherever introduced. Mr. DuPoy purchased a fine residence on Second street, and also a business property on Main street. He carries a large stock of furniture, draperies, wall papers, carpets, and in short, everything to be found in a first class furniture and outfitting establishment, save hardware and crockery goods. He is a graduate of the School of

Embalmers, and his undertaking establishment is much superior to those usually found outside the large towns. He is assisted in trade by his son, Will. Mr. DuPoy is a clear and eloquent speaker, an indefatigable worker, and both as man and minister commands the esteem of the entire community.



Opposite Laskey's store, Front street. Another advance—Photos by the new Electric Flash Light process. Instantaneous. Photos now day or night.

Portrait Enlarging and Copying in all its phases. Schools, Reunions, etc., right in line. Let me know about them,

MRS. RUTH THOMAS.

A sketch of the business enterprises of Grand Rapids would be quite incomplete without reference to the millinery and dressmaking establishment of Mrs. Thomas. With a ripe experience of all that pertains to the toilet of a well dressed lady, whether of make-up or material, Mrs. Thomas is sure of success in pleasing her many patrons of the town and vicinity. The fact that she gives the same courteous attention and painstaking to the moderate wants of the poor as to the more remunerative orders of the wealthy and well-to-do classes is known and appreciated.

Unlike the great majority of milliners, Mrs. Thomas does not restrict her buying to the four seasons; on the contrary, her purchases are made almost weekly throughout the year. And her jobbers have orders to forward at once anything new and desirable in the line of millinery goods. She is a regular attendant at all the trade openings, both at Ft. Wayne and Toledo and closely observes the latest and most stylish effects. She carries a full line of the latest in material, shades and shapes of hats, bonnets, toques, tams and misses and childrens headwear. An elegant line in all shades and material of ribbons, flowers, feathers, metallic and other trimmings, and all else pertaining to a high-class up-to-date millinery establishment,

In addition to millinery, Mrs. Thomas carries a line of Ladies', Misses' and Children's Furnishing Goods which must be seen to be appreciated.

As a modiste, Mrs. Thomas has received high praise as a graceful designer and for neat and durable work. Prices always reasonable.



JOHN HUFFMAN.

The above portrait was made some years ago, and is hardly a fair representation of the well known horticulturist of Grand Rapids township. He was born in York county, Pennsylvania, January 22, 1849; being the fifth son of John and Nancy (Wire) Huffman. The year following the birth of our subject the family removed to Wood county, Ohio; buying land on the south bank of the Maumee river, in what is now Grand Rapids township. John Huffman, Sr., died in 1864, leaving his wife and a family of twelve children. Nancy Huffman died August 12, 1880. All but one of the children are living at this date. Our subject attended the common schools and worked on the farm until he was sixteen years of age, when he learned the trade of carpenter and builder. Later, he accepted employment in the flouring mills of Isaac Groff and learned the miller's

trade, still later; he became superintendent of the Purdy saw and planing mills. In 1887 he purchased the land and planted his now famous island nurseries and vineyard, and in 1889 he supplemented these by the purchase and improvement of that portion of the Howard estate located upon the river east of the village. Here, in a lovely grove of young hickories, he built his home, and here, surrounded by orchards and vineyards, and enjoying one of the most beautiful prospects on the Maumee, he now resides.

August 17, 1871 he was united in marriage with Miss Emma, daughter of Alfred and Eliza Mains. They have but one child, Floyd D., now a young man of 24, who is the editor and proprietor of the Grand Rapids Triumph, and the publisher of this work.

Referring to Mr. Huffman's fruit business, he has about 6,000 grapes, 2,000 blackberries, 2,000 raspberries, 1,000 currants, an acre of strawberries and about 1,000 peach, pear, plum, apple and quince trees, all carefully selected, choice fruit. He is also a considerable manufacturer of grape wine, his average annual output being about 1,000 gallons. Persons desiring a mature and pure wine for medicinal or family use should consult Mr. Huffman before buying. He is selling a very choice wine as low as fifty cents per gallon. Merchants and others desiring large or small quantities of choice fruits, in season, should address John Huffman, Grand Rapids, Ohio.



HARRY A. DAVIS

Was born in July, 1868, at Detroit, son of D. D. and Mary (Austin) Davis. Mr. Davis, Sr., being usually in the employ of large corporations necessitated rather frequent removals from point to point, so that our subject spent his younger days and received his education partly in Detroit and in Omaha and Cedar Rapids, Neb. (At this date Mr. D. D. Davis is the auditor of the "Clover Leaf" R'y.) At an early date Harry became employed in clerical work, and which he continued, mostly in R. R., offices, up to a few years ago when he accepted the superintendency of the Paddock & Hodge [Clover Leaf] elevators at this point, and since which time he has been a citizen of the Rapids. On Sept. 11th. 1896, he married Anna, daughter of Jacob and Katarine Heeter, who are among the most highly respected citizens of the community. At this date Mr. Davis is the lessee of the elevators, which have



MRS ANNA DAVIS.

been fitted with every modern appliance, and are first-class in every particular. Three thousand bushels of grain can be handled daily.

This rapid handling of grain over the old way of waiting and handwork will be a great saving of time to farmers and others, particularly in handling corn; and a saving of time means a saving of money. With these facilities Mr. Davis will be able to compete very closely with Toledo prices.

Mrs. Anna [Heeter] Davis is well known to the 500 families who receive their mail at Grand Rapids, where she has been post-mistress for the past four years and has conducted the business of the office in so superior, pleasant and obliging a manner as to command the admiration of the entire public, irrespective of party affiliation.



LEWIS BORTLE

Was born in Oct. 1830, in Wayne county, Ohio, son of Lewis and Sarah Bortle. Lewis Bortle, Sr., came to Wood county with his family in 1832; the family consisting of Allen, John, Levi, Jeremiah, Henry, Sarah and Lewis, the latter, our subject, being at that date less than two years old. Lewis, Sr., had a patent from the U. S. government for the northwest quarter of section 19 of what is now Grand Rapids township, and which included a part of what is now known as the John Katon farm. Here he built a cabin and proceeded to wrest from the untrodden wilderness a living for himself and family. At that date it is safe to say that there were twenty Indians to every white man in this neighborhood, and the young Lewis could talk Indian about as soon as he could talk his

mother tongue. It is said that before he was old enough to shoot deer and other large game he would occasionally trade to the Indians some KOO-KOOSH or PE-NICKS for such delicacies of the wilderness as SIS-SE-PAH-KET, or WASH-CUSH and MUCK-WAH. With the exception of one summer in Michigan, Lewis Bortle, Jr., has been a resident of this neighborhood for 65 years. In the early day he and his brother Levi were the noted hunters, and made considerable money trapping wolves and shooting bear and deer. At the age of twenty-three Lewis learned the trade of chair and cabinet maker, which at that date was one of the most important in the country, everything in that line being made by hand. Later, in '57, when eastern factory work began to come in, he became a carpenter and joiner. On April 24, 1856 he married Miss Susan Harris.

In 1861 Mr. Bortle began work for Geo. Laskey, but shortly afterwards the Rebellion broke out, and at the first call for volunteers he enlisted in the 21st Ohio. After the three months campaign he returned to the employ of Mr. Laskey and remained till 1866, when he and B. F. Kerr purchased the Laskey stock. This partnership continued until 1875 when Mr. Bortle sold his interest to Mr. Kerr. The next three years Mr. Bortle spent in collecting accounts of the Kerr & Bortle business, and at April 3rd 1878, he opened his present business. It may be said without fear of contradiction that Lewis Bortle is a self-made man. With no advantages of education or commercial training until after he was thirty years of age, he has long been recog-

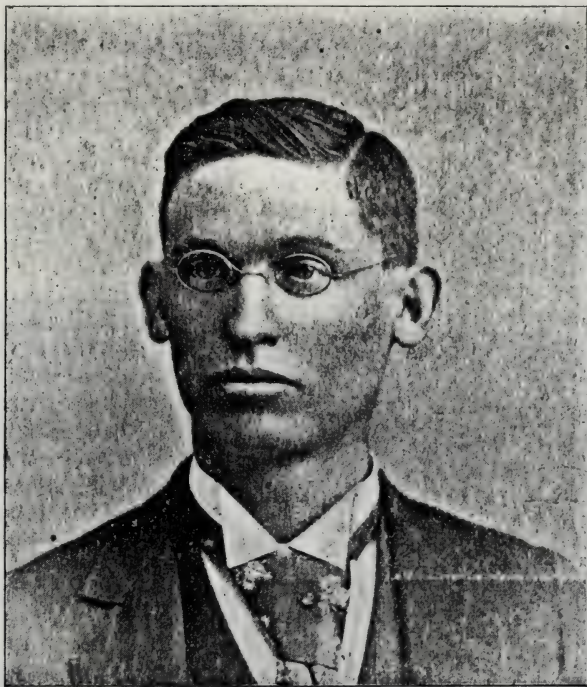
nized as a sound, practical business man. He has owned his business property from the beginning, and having but little expense and always buying for cash, he has been able to sell at a very low margin. He carries a large and first-class stock of everything to be found in a general store. He has plenty of capital for the conduct of his business, thus being able to take advantage of bargains at all times. At this date he has upon his farm, south-west of town, eighty acres of growing grain.



CHARLES PATTON,
Contractor and Builder.

Few men in this vicinity have as many acquaintances as genial Charley Patton, or "The Judge," as he is

called. He was born April 7, 1856, at Colton, Henry county, O., is a son of David and Elizabeth (Gramling) Patton, who were early settlers of that region. Charley worked on the farm in the summer, and attended the district school in the winter, until he was eighteen, when he learned the carpenter trade, and in which he has been a conspicuous figure ever since. On the 24th of November, 1877 he married Jennie Manor, and their union to this date has been blessed with eight children, five of whom are living: Maud M., Nellie, Roy, Ethel and Faith. Mr. Patton, while he makes Grand Rapids his business headquarters, is a resident of Lucas county, where he enjoys the unbounded confidence of his neighbors, and is serving them as Justice of the Peace, and general adviser in all important matters. He is an ardent Republican and is serving his second term as Central Committeeman of Providence township. He is a member of Grand Rapids Lodge No. 289, F. & A. M., of Turkey Foot Lodge No. 529, I. O. O. F., of Rapids Encampment No. 240, I. O. O. F., and of Canton Alpine No. 26. As a contractor and builder his reputation for first-class, conscientious work is such that he frequently has gangs of men at work in various parts of the country at the same time.



AZOR THURSTON

Was born on the farm, in Oxford township, Erie county, Ohio, January 6, 1861, son of Asher and Mahala (Montross) Thurston. Shortly after his birth the family removed to Wood county, and soon after purchased land in section 10 of what is now Grand Rapids township. Our subject worked on the farm in summer and attended the district school in winter until he was fourteen, when he came to the "Rapids" and took a 4 years course in the graded schools. In 1879 he entered the Ohio State University, Columbus, and took a course in chemistry. In 1883 he entered the University of Michigan, where he took

the course in pharmacy and continued analytical chemistry.

In 1885 he opened his drug business in the Rapids, and from that day to this has met with the splendid success which he so richly deserves. On Oct. 14, 1886, Mr. Thurston married Lulu A., daughter of Dr. Justin N. and Ann E. (Ashley) Mead.

In 1888 he formulated the now celebrated Thurston's Pills, his purpose being to produce a mild but efficient substitute for the harsh, drastic, sickening and debilitating mixtures of the official and Standard Formularies. His success is a matter of history, as the Thurston's Pills are today known and

appreciated over a large section of the United States and the Dominion of Canada. As a tonic, laxative and alterative they are unequaled; giving tone and vigor to the alimentary tract and to the entire nervous and muscular system. There's no griping, no sickening or debilitating effect. They clear the complexion, brighten the eyes, and impart a general condition of health and vigor.

questionable integrity could only produce an article of the highest merit. A very fair illustration of the character of Mr. Thurston is found in the construction of his new building, completed in August of last year. He first made up his mind as to what he wanted, and then looked for architects of such standing that there would be certainty of having his ideas executed in the best



INTERIOR OF THURSTON'S PHARMACY.

The wonderful success of the Thurston's Pills induced the formulating and manufacture of the other well known Thurston Remedies.

To those intimately acquainted with Mr. Thurston, the splendid success of his remedies is a foregone conclusion. His thorough knowledge of drugs and their compounds, his mastery of chemistry, organic and inorganic, and his un-

possible manner. Such architects he found in the well known firm of Geo. F. Barber & Co., of Knoxville, Tenn. The result is the building of which exterior and interior views are herewith given. This building is 30x75 feet, with two stories, 14 and 12 feet, and basement, 8 feet. The foundation is upon the solid rock 8 to 10 feet below the surface, and contains more than fifty cords of stone.

The front is of rock-faced, pressed brick of granite shades, from the celebrated Findlay Hydraulic-Press Brick Co. The side walls are of first-class common brick, and 18 inches in thickness. The front windows are of French plate; the front of show window being 6x10 feet, with corresponding half circle above, and the sides are 4x6 feet with corresponding squares above. The floors are all double, the sub-floors being tongued and grooved the same as the top; the surface floors are of two-inch strip maple, dressed and polished after laying. The vestibules are tiled. The ceiling is of stamped steel, decorated in tints. The furniture is all in quartered oak, and in every part made expressly to Mr. Thurston's order. It is the crowning feature, and attracts the close attention of every admirer of fine work who visits the establishment. The furniture was manufactured by Mr. James Schlappi, of Delta, Ohio, in competition with the leading concerns of Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit and Toledo, and the designs, execution and finish are a revelation to buyers in more pretentious quarters. The lower story contains sales room, laboratory and library. The laboratory is large in size and complete in every detail. It must be seen and examined by the expert chemist to be appreciated. The library contains one of the largest purely private collections of standard medical, scientific and technical works to be found in the country, and is constantly being added to.

All of which, as we have said, is an illustration of Mr. Thurston's character. Solid, sound, safe; no shams, no guess-work; nothing but the best is good



THURSTON'S PHARMACY.

enough. Thus, in purchasing any of the Thurston Chemical Company Remedies you may be sure of tried and proven formularies, pure drugs and expert compounding.

A peculiarity of Mr. Thurston is that every order made by him for drugs bears stamped across its face the warning: "All goods shipped must conform strictly to the Ohio Pure Food Law, or they will be returned at shipper's expense."

We will now mention a few facts which are uncontrovertible evidence of the professional standing of Azor Thurston. The first is that leading physicians in various parts of the country, whose reputations depend upon the unvarying purity and strength of the drugs used, have their fluid extracts specially

manufactured by Mr. Thurston. The price is the same, and the name is a guarantee of standard goods. Again, as an analytical chemist, he is consulted upon matters of the greatest importance. As an authority, he has been interrogated by the compilers of the latest standard dictionary as to the definition of certain technical terms pertaining to chemistry. As an author, he is a valued contributor to several of the pharmacal and chemical journals, and his tabular chart of alkaloids and alkaloidal salts, giving physical and chemical properties, physiologic action, doses and antidotes, received the highest commendation, and is to-day in use in leading schools of pharmacy.

Mr. Thurston is an active member of The American Pharmaceutical Association, The Ohio State Pharmaceutical Association and The American Chemical Society. Here, also, we may mention that he is a subscriber to all of the leading pharmacal and chemical journals, such as The Pharmaceutical Era, The Western Druggist, and Merck's Report, of all of which he has complete, bound volumes to date; The American Druggist, The Analyst (London), and The Journal of the American Chemical Society; of which he has a goodly number of complete, bound volumes. He, also, has a complete set, bound, of the Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association. In short, he has in these journals alone, a library of goodly proportions and of inestimable value to his profession.

Socially, and as a citizen, Mr. Thurston is held in the highest estimation. He is at this date Master of Grand Rapids Lodge No. 289, F. & A. M., Treasurer of Turkey Foot Lodge No. 529 I. O. O. F.; a member of Rapids

Encampment I. O. O. F. and 1st Lieutenant of Canton Alpine No. 26, Patriarchs Militant. He is the village treasurer, and has served as such for many years.

For the convenience of his large business, Mr. Thurston carries a balance with the First National Bank of Toledo, and The National Park Bank of New York, which are respectively, West and East, two of the strongest and best managed banking institutions of the United States. He takes advantage of every discount, and is considered good for his wants in every part of the country.

Though raging fever fills the veins,
Hot with the flux of impure blood,
Until proud reason loose the reins,
Resigns her throne and chaos comes—
Still, let not hope despondent grow,
The antidote may here be found
On careful reading, and the woe
No longer fills the heart with fear.
'Seek, it is said, and thou shalt find

Sweet consolation for thy search;
And health of body, peace of mind,
Rewardeth him who seeks and finds
Such balm, so lightly hidden here,
As healeth blood impurities,
Purgeth the mind of gloomy fear
And maketh life worth living.
Read elsewhere for the full details,
Intently scan each line and word:
Learn that it cures when all else fails;
Learn what it cures, then haste to
buy,
And nothing else you'll care to try.





FRED J. HEETER

Was born September 2, 1865, son of Jacob and Katharine (Fisher) Heeter. He is essentially a Grand Rapids product, born here and educated here; and we can unhesitatingly say that he has developed into as good a citizen as any village can boast of. At the age of sixteen Fred went into the grocery trade, and from a small beginning has built up a business which is second to none in its line in this section. He owns the building which he occupies, and carries a complete line of staple and fine groceries, queensware, tobacco, cigars, and confectionery. And he is an acknowledged leader in every line handled. He has always carried the best goods that his market would warrant, and his patrons may be sure of getting the best their money will buy anywhere. In foreign and domestic fruits he was the first large dealer in the village, and his store has always been headquarters for the best grade of confectionery. His cigar trade

is the largest in town, both in domestic and imported brands. Of late years he has been making a specialty of queensware, fine table china and glass ware; and of which he carries the most complete line in town.

On June 12, 1895, Mr. Heeter was united in marriage with Miss Etta Thomas, one of the most attractive young ladies of the village, and who shares with him the high regard of the community. As an example of the esteem in which Fred Heeter is held it is sufficient to say that he is a leading Democrat, but has been repeatedly elected to office in this village, which is overwhelmingly Republican. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and K. of P. societies, and a leader in everything for the good of the town.





JAMES S. FOOR

Was born June 22, 1851, at Findlay, Ohio, son of Isaiah and Susan (Folk) Foor. He received his education in the public schools. About the year '63 the family moved on to the farm in Henry county, at the point known as Randall Hill. Here our subject grew to manhood. At an early age he learned the trade of carpenter and builder, and within a few years was the leading contractor and builder in that part of the country. In 1875 he married Mary, daughter of Osman and Nancy (Price) Bucklin. About this time Mr. Foor took up the study of architecture, and was soon able to design and plan as well as execute; which added materially to his success as contractor and builder. In 1882 he removed to the Rapids, and in '88 he leased the Peugh planing mills and opened the business of manufacturer and jobber in builders' supplies, and which business he is still engag-

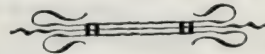
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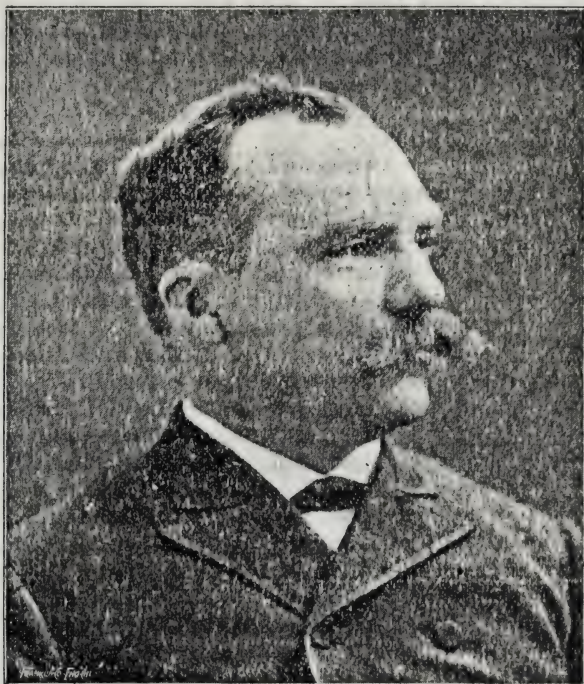
In 1894, Mrs. Foor died leaving her husband with four children: Ray, who is now occupying a clerical position in Toledo. Pearl, recently united in marriage with Mr. C. L. Laskey, and Lulu and Coy, who are still at home.

In September, 1896 Mr. Foor married Della M., daughter of Henry and Harriet (Hubbard) Pratt, a young lady of cultivation and refinement, and highly esteemed in the community.

Persons expecting to build will do well to consult Mr. Foor. He will on application furnish designs, plans and estimates, on very liberal terms. He is prepared at all times to furnish anything in the line of rough or dressed lumber, frames, doors, sash, blinds, shingles, lath, etc., and will, also make proposals for the erection of any class of buildings.

As a citizen, Mr. Foor is held in high estimation; for many years he has served almost continuously as a member of council or of the school board, and is always active in village matters. He is a leading member of the local lodge of Odd Fellows, and for the past eight years has held the office of permanent secretary.





W. E. KERR

Was born on the farm in Monclova township, Lucas county, Ohio, March 2, 1853; son of Jesse and Eliza (Evans) Kerr. He was educated in the graded schools of Maumee City, which are among the best in the country. While yet a lad he learned telegraphy and at the age of seventeen entered the employ of the Western Union Telegraph Co., where he remained about three years. About the year 1873 he entered the employment of Kerr & Bortle, who succeeded Laskey & Bro. in the general store and grain trade in 1868. In 1875, Mr. B. F. Kerr, brother of our subject, purchas-

ed the interest of Mr. Bortle, and Mr. W. E. Kerr continued as book-keeper and salesman, in which connection he remained for a period of ten years. He next engaged with the leading dry goods jobbers of Toledo as a traveling salesman. During this engagement he had erected the west half of the business block which he now occupies.

Mr. Kerr engaged in the general store business in the Rapids about six years ago. With an active experience of some eighteen years in all the minutia of the trade, both wholesale and retail, and occupying prem-

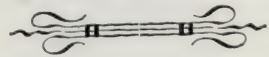
ises specially built to his order, the business has been successful from the day of opening until the present time. About three years ago his business had increased to such an extent that it became necessary to double the capacity of his store room, and the result is the large double store rooms which he now occupies, and which for convenience, light and capacity are among the best in the county.

W. E. Kerr is a natural merchant; always courteous and attentive, stock always full and fresh, and displayed in the best manner; constantly examining the markets for anything new and desirable, and maintaining an ample credit east and west, his business moves with the precision of clockwork. Courtesy and square dealing, a full stock, and high grade goods at low prices are the secrets of his success.

September 18th, 1878. Mr. Kerr was united in marriage with Miss Nelly J., the handsome and accomplished daughter of B. F. and Josephine (Perrin) Pratt. Mr. B. F., better known as "Foster" Pratt is a member of the great Pratt family referred to in the early history of the village, and which from the opening of the settlements until the present date has been considered one of the leading families of the Maumee Valley. Mr. and Mrs. Kerr have one child, Jesse Foster, a bright, handsome boy of six. They have a very pleasant home, and are among the most highly respected citizens of the village. Mr. Kerr is one of the most prominent and active members of the M. E. church society, of which church he has been a member since childhood.

He is a great lover of children, and is never too busy to devote lots of time to the instruction and amusement of the little ones; and it is safe to say that no citizen of the Rapids is more highly regarded by the youth of the village.

He is the present superintendent of the Sabbath School, and has been repeatedly elected to that office. He is a prominent Odd Fellow, being an active member of Lodge, Camp and Canton; and to him, more than any other member, the local bodies are indebted for their fine, well furnished lodge room and general condition of prosperity. And right here we desire to call attention to a fact which is too often overlooked by the people of a community, and that is that the merchant who invests his profits at home in substantially building up and beautifying the town, is at the same time enhancing the value of every dollar's worth of real property in the town or contiguous thereto. Mr. Kerr has been in business in the Rapids about six years and his profits have been placed upon the tax duplicate of the county in the shape of real estate improvements.





JOHN E. STEVENS

Was born May 29, 1851, at Cook's Corners, Huron county, Ohio, son of John A. and Eathelinda (Heath) Stevens. He received his education in the common schools. At an early age he learned the blacksmith's trade and for a number of years worked at jour work, first with John Hoover, of Weston, then with Seneca Sterling, of Weston, and last with T. J. Sterling, of the Rapids. Some years ago he purchased the business, tools and property owned by T. J. Sterling, and since that date has been conducting the largest general blacksmithing business in the neighborhood. Mr. Stevens, while he is a skilled workman in all branches of the trade, is particularly successful as a horseshoer; and for very good reasons. First, he likes the work; next, he has made a study of the

peculiarities of horse's feet for many years; and, lastly, he does all his work in a careful and painstaking manner.

In 1872 Mr. Stevens was united in marriage with Miss Jane, daughter of William and Mary (Rockwell) Beaman, and to them were born two of the children now living, Sylvester and Louise. Mrs. Stevens lived but a few years after the birth of her children.

In 1883 he married Miss Emma, daughter of John E and Sarah (McCabe) Carson, and at this date Mr. and Mrs. Stevens reside in their nice, comfortable home at the corner of Main and Second streets. The family consists of five children, three of whom are at home.

Referring to their home, we may add that Mr. Stevens owns, also, the residence property adjoining him on the west, and now occupied by his son Sylvester and family, and which he contemplates joining to the property he occupies, and thus form one large, and very desirable residence property.

John E. Stevens is one of the most respected citizens of the "Rapids," and is now serving his second term as mayor of the village. He is a prominent member of the Presbyterian church, of which he has been a ruling elder for several years.



ED. H. HOPKINS

Was born Nov. 12, 1850, at Albion, Michigan, son of William and Mary (Phoenix) Hopkins. He attended the common schools until he was eighteen years of age, when he went to Detroit and learned the trade of machinist. He remained at Detroit eight years, and then began business on his own account, and for several years moved from point to point erecting and repairing engines. He next located in Toledo, where he remained nine years. The next move was to Grand Rapids, where he built and equipped one of the most complete machine shops to be found outside the large cities and towns.

As a machinist, Mr. Hopkins has few peers and no superiors in this part of the country, and his shops are so well equipped that the work of many of the neighboring towns is sent here. In addition to regular work, he keeps a full line of bicycle repairs, and also furnishes parts, and

repairs lawnmowers, fire-arms, pumps, etc. Ed, is not only a superior mechanic, but is an all around good citizen. He is a member of the village council, and prominent in all movements for public improvements.

Socially, he is a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellow orders, and the above cut represents him in his uniform as a Patriarch Militant of the latter order. He is an ardent sportsman, and a crack shot; and, next to his wife, his affections are centered in an L. C. Smith hammerless, and a fine English pointer.

Eleven years ago Ed. married Cora E., daughter of John and Emily Heller. Mrs. Hopkins is a handsome and intelligent lady and is highly esteemed by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. They have no children.



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JEREMIAH E HUFFMAN

Was born August 2, 1844, in York county, Pennsylvania, son of John and Nancy (Wire) Huffman. The family came to Ohio in 1850 and located on the farm now owned by our subject, being in Section 3 of this township. J. E. Huffman was educated in the common schools, and worked on the farm until 1863 when he enlisted in the 68th regiment of Ohio Volunteer Infantry and served until the close of the war. After the war he returned to farming, and in October, 1867 married Elsie, daughter of John and Elsie (VanVoltenberg) Phillips.

In 1888, Mr. Huffman leased his farm and removed to the Rapids, where he opened a jobbing business in Poultry and Eggs, shipping direct to New York. In the spring of '94 he opened a retail grocery in his business property on East

Front street, and discontinued, practically, the purchase of eggs from the trade; but his books show that he has not entirely dropped out of the egg trade yet, as he has taken in individually an average of something over 2,000 dozen weekly since then. He still continues to do something in the poultry line, especially during the holiday season when he scatters, \$500 to \$600 daily among the neighboring farmers. "Jerry" Huffman is one of the most popular citizens of Grand Rapids township. Years ago it was the custom to elect him annually to the office of assessor whether he wanted it or not, but he finally flatly refused to serve. He has served on the council and school board, and is always among the foremost in contributing to anything for the good of the town. He is a member of Bond Post, G. A. R., and is always ready to serve an old comrade.

In trade he is always pleasant and obliging, and, as he sells good goods at fair prices, his trade is constantly increasing. He carries a full line of staple and fancy groceries, smoked meats, foreign and domestic fruits, and pays the highest price for produce. If you don't know Jerry Huffman it will pay you to call and get acquainted.

Mr. and Mrs. Huffman have two children, Verne P., who was recently united in marriage with Miss Edna Peters, and Lillie, a young lady, who is still at home. They have a handsome home on Second street, and still own the old home farm.



DR. B. A. MANOR

Was born Oct. 20, 1871 at St. Marys, Ohio, son of John and Cordelia (Haskins) Manor. The father of our subject was a son of Frank Manor, who was a son of the Peter Manor heretofore referred to as having been given a section of land at the head of the Grand Rapids by his Indian friends, and who was the pioneer of pioneers in the settlement of Providence township, Lucas county.

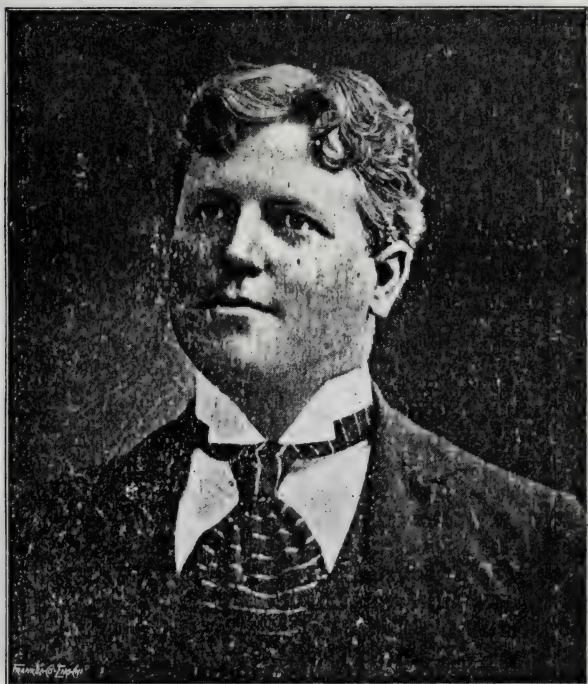
B. A. Manor received his education in the public schools of Celina and Napoleon, Ohio. While yet in his boyhood he had the great misfortune to lose both of his parents by death. But, if it is possible for the place of parents to be filled, it has certainly been filled in this instance by "Aunt Martha" Manor; a lady who, in this section at least, has few equals in intelligence, education or refinement, and with whom Bert has had a home for many years.

A few years since Mr. Manor entered the Ohio Medical University, and from which he graduated a short time since with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery.

This is a profession to which he seems singularly adapted, as he is a natural mechanic, and several years prior to taking the regular course he had made sets, and parts of sets of artificial teeth which were accounted by competent authority to be first-class in every respect. His later work has a style and finish peculiarly his own, and is the equal of the best in the country. And not only has he received high praise for his mechanical work, but his treatment and care of the natural teeth gives the greatest satisfaction. He does everything in the line of high grade dentistry.

The improvement in dental work during the past few years will be a great revelation to those who have not had an opportunity to observe the same. The best talent of the profession have been studying and working for the better protection and prolonged usefulness of the natural teeth, and modern crown work and transplanting is the result. Then, the disagreeable cumbersomeness of the old plate work has been entirely done away with, and the thin, light aluminum plates, and bridge work have come to stay. Call on Dr. Manor and observe the result of scientific study and experiment.

Dr. Manor is a general favorite in the community, and it is to be hoped that he may be induced to remain with us for some time to come.

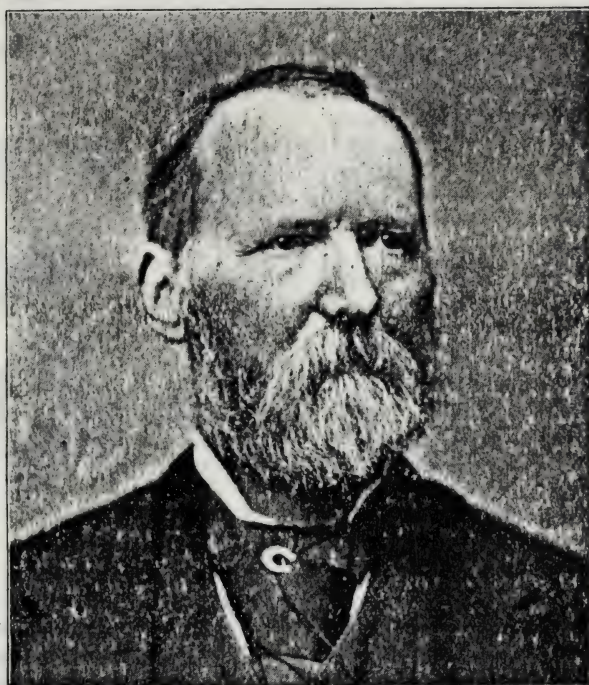


C. B. COLE, M. D.

Dr. Cole is a native of the adjoining county of Henry, born Oct. 9, 1866, son of Newton S. and Julia A. (Parker) Cole. The father is the well known merchant of Holgate, and one of the leading citizens of Henry county. He is the father of three sons, all of whom are professional men: Allen Eugene, the second son, and Guy O., the youngest, are each graduates of the Ohio Medical University, and each received the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. The former is practicing in Leipsic, Ohio, and the latter at Holgate. Claude B., our subject, first entered the scientific department of the Ohio State University, and next took a course in the

Columbus Medical College. His third school was the Long Island Medical College, of Brooklyn, and the fourth was the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia. All of these are standard schools, and the last named ranks with the very highest in Europe or America. When we consider this splendid list of alma maters, and seven years of active practice, Dr. Cole's wonderful success as a physician is readily understood.

On June 14, 1894, Dr. Cole married Miss Flora A. Housley, a most estimable young lady, daughter of Richard A. and Anna (Friend) Housley. Helen Marie is the pretty name of their very pretty little daughter.



This picture represents A. J. Gardner, M. D. as he appeared a few years ago. Now, older, and, if not wiser, he has more experience. Is a native Buckeye, born in 1827. He commenced the practice of medicine when 21 years old, and has rounded out over half a century in prescribing and handling medicines as physician and druggist, and the older he grows the more he has to learn to keep up with the procession.

This is an experimental age. Physicians are experimenting on the thousand and one new medicines which are yearly put forth. Nearly every town has its proprietary medicine factory, and the people stand ready to swallow every new thing

that comes along, not knowing whether poisonous or not. A statement is made of a sarsaparilla sold in the country that contains 5 parts sarsaparilla and 95 parts water. Medicine fakirs are traveling from house to house. Wonderful that more people are not killed by these nostrum venders. There are now about 7,000 distinct medicines and 15,000 patents sold by jobbers, and this does not include near all. A store room reaching across the river would be required to display all these medicines.

The Grand Rapids Drug Store was established in 1860 and carries a small part of the list, and the proprietor has some knowledge how to handle them.



R. D. KNAPP.

The above is a remarkably poor portrait of Ralph DeForest Knapp, or, as he is known by every man, woman and child in the Rapids, as "Fod" Knapp, the jeweler. Mr. Knapp is a native Buckeye, being born in the village of Waterville, Lucas county, May 6, 1862, son of David P. and Ellen (Taylor) Knapp. During the early childhood of our subject the family removed to Haskins, Wood county, where he received his education in part. Later, the family removed to Tontogany, in this county, and here he finished his school days.

Before he was twenty-one years of age Mr. Knapp had learned the trade of watchmaker and jeweler, and in 1882 he came to the Rapids and opened a jewelry store and work shop.

On June 10th, 1883 he was united in marriage with Miss Nora J., daughter of John and Emeline (Fredericks) Kiger and their union has been bless-

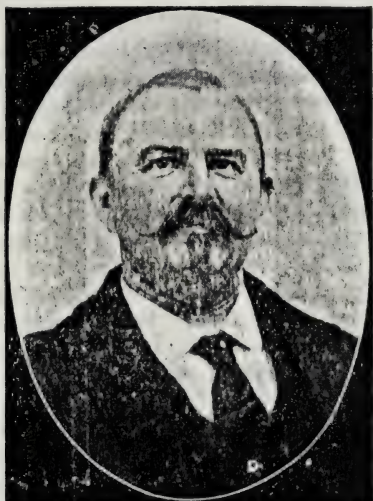
ed with four children. Lottie May, Albert Clark, Delbert Porter and Charles Frederick.

Mr. Knapp is a good citizen, attends strictly to his own business, has no bad habits, and is always ready to assist in any thing for the good of the community. He owns a comfortable home on Monroe street and also owns his business rooms on Front street. He is a man of remarkable versatility and can turn his hand to all most anything. Some years ago when the jewelry trade became dull he took up photography, in connection with his regular business, and for eight years he made pictures, and good pictures too. Then he sold his picture business and later put in a barber chair; and at this date it is claimed by good judges that "Fod" can do a shave or hair-cut with the best of them. In watch and clock cleaning and repairing he has the reputation of doing first-class work at about one-half the price charged for the same work in city shops. He carries a line of rings, charms, studs, buttons, pins, etc., suited to the trade, and, also, a line of plain, substantial watches, and when something out of the ordinary is wanted he takes orders and supplies the article at a very small margin over wholesale cost. Thus people are able to buy through him the same goods, and at much lower price than charged by city dealers. He does everything in the line of jewelry repair work, and will clean and burnish free of charge. If you want to buy a watch, or clock, or wish one cleaned or repaired, or if you want a piece of jewelry, or the same repaired, call on Mr. Knapp, and you will get the best satisfaction for your money.



JOHN M. ROBERTS.

People at home and abroad will recognize the above as a fair portrait of the widely known Grand Rapids barber, and world-renowned fisherman. What John don't know about a hair cut and shave, or capturing a string of black bass, is hardly worth mentioning. Mr. Roberts makes no pretensions to style; don't advertise himself as an "Artist," nor his shop as "Tonsorial Parlors;" and he never slights a job because his customer happens to work for a living, and doesn't wear tan shoes or crease his pants. Very few people are aware that John is a veteran of the war of the Rebellion, because he has never made any particular blow about it. But he served in the 28th Indiana Infantry, just the same. After the war he drifted from point to point, working at his trade in one city or town until he became tired of the place, and then going to another. In Sept. 1885 he came to the "Rapids" to fish, liked the town, and has been here ever since. In August 1888 he married Miss Lorena Fry, daughter of Ambrose Fry, of McComb. At this date he owns a comfortable home on West Front street, where he has three good town lots and gives full sway to his hobby for raising fancy poultry. Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have three of the prettiest children in town, Grace, Nancy and Carey.



E. G. LASKEY.

Edward George Laskey was born at Gilead (Grand Rapids), May 25, 1852, son of George and Anjenette (Howard) Laskey.

He received his education in the Grand Rapids schools. He showed great aptitude for business at an early age, and before he was twenty-one he engaged in the general hardware trade at Ottawa, Putnam county. Oct. 17th, 1872 he married Annie, daughter of Dr. Springer. Shortly afterward he returned to Grand Rapids and entered into partnership with Capt. A. H. Gruber in the hardware trade. Later he sold his interest to Mr. Gruber and, afterward, engaged with his brother, Sherman, in a general store business. After some years the brothers divided the stock, Edward taking men and women's furnishing goods, boots, shoes, hats, caps, etc., and Sherman taking dry goods

and groceries. Sherman removed to Michigan, and Edward retained the old Laskey stand, where he is now located. Mr. E. G. Laskey has been in business continuously almost from boyhood, and is considered one of the best salesmen in the country. His large store room is stocked with the leading lines of Gent's, Ladies', Youths', and Children's shoes. Everything in the line of Men's and Women's Furnishing Goods, Hats and Caps, and a full line of Rubbers of best manufacture. He is sole agent for two of the largest merchant tailoring establishments of Chicago, and makes a specialty of fine suits to order. He also carries a line of men's pants, overalls, work suits, sweaters, etc., etc. Ed. Laskey is one of the most genial and kind hearted men that ever lived. There is hardly a poor boy in the country to whom Ed. has not extended credit when he most needed it. Hundreds of poor people, without a penny of security, have to thank Ed. for shoes and clothing for themselves and children, when all other doors were closed to them. It goes without saying that he has lost thousands of dollars in this kind of work. But he never lost confidence in humanity, and believes every man is honest until he proves himself otherwise. Mrs. Laskey is fully as kindhearted as her husband, and wherever there is poverty or sickness there she is found with a helping hand. Their only child, C. L., now a young man, was recently married to Miss Pearl Foor, the accomplished and handsome daughter of J. S. Foor. The young people are highly esteemed by the entire community.

THE DU POY M'F'G CO.

This is a corporation under the laws of Ohio, with a capital of \$5,000. It was organized for the manufacture and sale of the "Pride of America," a combined separator and elevator, a novel piece of machinery which will do all the work of a fanning mill, and perform a great many operations which no fanning mill is capable of. To illustrate, take one bushel of clover seed, one of timothy seed and one of red top, mix them altogether and turn through the machine once and they will come out separated and elevated into sacks. Or, take one bushel of first-class wheat, one of second-class wheat, one of cockle or cheat, mix and run through the machine and the wheat will come out graded ready for the market. The machine will

separate plantain seed from clover seed, dock seed from clover seed, or any foreign mixture which may be in the clover. It will clean seed from mow chaff and separate different seed mixed in chaff by once passing it through. The machine is unequalled for simplicity, durability and capacity. Is small, and handy, and takes up but little room in the barn.

These machines are all hand made, and while particular care has been taken to have every working part strong

and perfect, it has been deemed superfluous to add to their expense by elegant finish. Varnish, bright colors and gilt stripes induce many people to buy, when they know that they are paying five to ten dollars for fancy painting, which a single season will obliterate. The "Pride of America" is well painted, but is made for use, not to look at. The company has many enthusiastic testimonials from leading farmers, but which we have not space to reproduce. But boiled down in a nutshell they say: "It works like magic."

"It is the most satisfactory piece of machinery ever placed on a farm." "Every practical man will have one as soon as he sees it work."

The machines are sold at the very low price of \$25, and any thorough farmer can save that amount in from

one to two seasons in grading his grain and cleaning up stuff that is usually wasted. The present officers of the company are:

B. DuPoy, Pres. and Mgr.

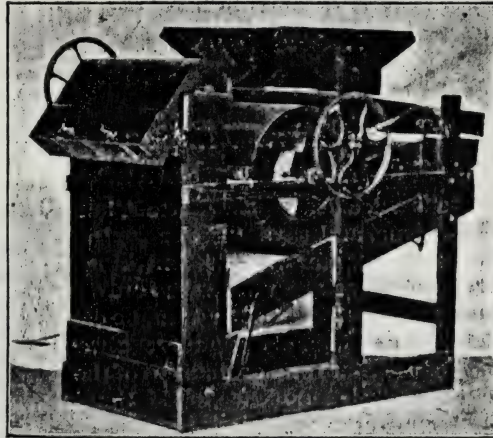
E. G. Laskey, Vice Pres.

W. K. Evans, Treas.

F. L. Sheats, Sec'y.

Board of Directors: Housley, Evans, DuPoy, Laskey and Sheats.

John Lucas, agent, also agent for Planos, Organs, Sewing Machines, and all kinds of repairs for the same, Grand Rapids, Ohio.





Edward M. Box,
SALOON and BILLIARDS.

The above is a decidedly poor portrait, but Ed. isn't proud if he is handsome, and says "Let'er go." Ed. Box has been in business here for himself something over a year, and has the respect of even that class who are decidedly opposed to his business. A strictly sober man, he conducts his business in a quiet, gentlemanly manner; always conforming to the laws of the State and ordinances of the village. The people have so much confidence in Ed. that last spring they elected him a member of the village council.

People desiring liquors for medicinal or family use can buy them of Mr. Box in perfect confidence. Every bill of liquors purchased by him is subjected to chemical test, and if it does not conform to the Ohio Pure Food laws it goes back with a whirl, and that house loses his trade. Ed.'s furniture is a little bit off in the matter of varnish, gilt and ginger bread trimmings, but when it comes to first-class goods at a reasonable price there's no better place to go. Mr. Box also carries a line of tobaccos and cigars, canned lunch goods and delicacies.



Major J. H. [Name]
[Rank and Name]

Major J. H. [Name] is a [Rank] in the [Service]. He is a [Nationality] and was born on [Date] at [Location]. He is a [Rank] in the [Service] and is currently assigned to [Location]. He is a [Rank] in the [Service] and is currently assigned to [Location]. He is a [Rank] in the [Service] and is currently assigned to [Location].

Frank Adams,

Harness and Saddlery.

Eighteen Years Experience.

Nothing but High Grade Oak-tanned stock used. All work guaranteed. All of the latest designs and improvements.



Frank Adams is a man who keeps strictly up to the times in his trade. He has an enviable reputation for superior work, and, when horsemen want something reliable, handsome and up-to-date, Frank gets the order.

He carries everything in the way of

Whips, Robes, Dusters, Fly-nets, Etc., Etc.

When you want first-class work, at living prices, call on Frank Adams, East Front street.

GRAND RAPIDS, OHIO.

First Issue

Volume 1, No. 1

Published by the

Editorial Board



The first issue of the journal is now available. It contains a number of interesting articles on the history of the United States. The first article is by John F. Kennedy, who discusses the role of the United States in the world. The second article is by Lyndon B. Johnson, who discusses the role of the United States in the world. The third article is by Hubert H. Humphrey, who discusses the role of the United States in the world. The fourth article is by Walter Reuther, who discusses the role of the United States in the world. The fifth article is by Martin Luther King, Jr., who discusses the role of the United States in the world. The sixth article is by Robert Kennedy, who discusses the role of the United States in the world. The seventh article is by John F. Kennedy, who discusses the role of the United States in the world. The eighth article is by Lyndon B. Johnson, who discusses the role of the United States in the world. The ninth article is by Hubert H. Humphrey, who discusses the role of the United States in the world. The tenth article is by Walter Reuther, who discusses the role of the United States in the world. The eleventh article is by Martin Luther King, Jr., who discusses the role of the United States in the world. The twelfth article is by Robert Kennedy, who discusses the role of the United States in the world.

Published by the

Editorial Board

THE GRAND RAPIDS AMUSEMENT CO.

On Sept. 9, 1896, a number of the leading business men of the village associated themselves together as a body corporate under the laws of Ohio, with a capital of \$5,000. The object of the association being to advertise the village as a summer resort and to provide for the accommodation of excursionists, fishing, boating and pic-nic parties, and for conventions and assemblages of proper character; also, to provide entertainments for the people of the village and vicinity. In pursuance of these designs the company leased for five years, with privilege of purchase, a tract of land bordering upon the slackwater just west of the village, and having a river front of about one-third of a mile. The grounds contain about thirty-six acres, are well shaded, underdrained with tile, and well sodded. The company has graded a half mile track for driving and bicycles; have drilled two wells which furnish plenty of pure cool water, and are daily making improvements. As a boating and fishing resort these grounds are unsurpassed in Ohio. The slackwater forms a lake eighteen miles in length by about one-third of a mile in width. Just a few rods from the grounds is the State Dam, below which are the pools and rapids abounding in black bass, lake bass, rock bass, saagoes, pickerel and other fish. The view from the grounds is beautiful in the extreme, taking in the islands, the rapids, the village, the wooded banks and the clear expanse of rippling waters. Except when otherwise announced, the grounds are free to all

persons or assemblages of assured respectability, but no traffic of any description can be carried on without permit. Tents or cottages may be erected upon the grounds, in such location as the superintendent may approve, and may remain for the whole or part of the season, but a nominal fee will be charged for such privileges.


Quite a number of gentlemen residing in the neighboring towns, and in the city of Toledo, have made application for sites for cottages, and those desiring a choice of location should give the matter prompt attention. There is no more desirable place in the country, none so convenient, and none where the expense is of so little moment.

Individuals or societies desiring the use of the grounds should apply to the secretary several days in advance, in order that they may not select a day upon which the full use of the accessories have been secured by others. Those desiring stand or exhibition privileges should make their applications as early as possible, because such applications are considered in the order in which they are received.

No rowdysim, no disreputable persons, and no intoxicating liquors will be allowed upon the grounds under any circumstances,

The present officers of the company are:

Azor Thurston, Pres.
John Huffman, Vice Pres.
R. A. Housley, Treas.
E. A. McLain, Sec'y.
Claude Inman, Supt.



The Schools.

The early settlers were nearly all people of intelligence and education, and, as a natural result of such progenitors the community has always borne a reputation for superior enterprise in educational matters. As heretofore stated the first school was opened in the wilderness 66 years ago by Charlotte Howard, and who continued as teacher for several years. In 1832, districts were formed, but no particular chronicle of the schools is to be found until the early "fifties" when an attempt at graded schools was inaugurated. E. W. Lenderson teaching the "High" school in the building afterwards used by Louisa Bortle as a residence, and Miss Lacey teaching the primary in a little log house that stood upon the lot at the south-east corner of Front and West streets. David Donaldson later took charge of the combined schools. In 1858 a large two story frame building was erected on the east side of Beaver street, and in 1859 the special school district was organized. D. A. Avery was elected superintendant, and served five years, Mary E. Lacey taught the primary department. The present fine building was erected in 1876-7 and which at that date was a grand undertaking for a village of 400 inhabitants. This building is now much too small and another must be erected soon.

The Churches.

We are indebted to the "Commemorative Record" of Wood County for these facts: "In 1833 the first Method-

ist class was organized, with Samuel VanHorn as leader. The other members of the class were: Jacob and Catherine Macklin, Mrs. VanHorn, Sarah Arnold, Annie Donaldson and Mrs. Rice, who was the mother of Samuel and Thomas Junkins. This class was known as the Gilead Mission. During 1834 Elam Day was the pastor. In 1834 Cyrus Brooks. In 1837 this mission became a regular part of the Perrysburg circuit. In 1848 the first church was built by the combined efforts of the Methodist and Presbyterian societies, neither being able to erect a building alone. In fact both were able to build but half a church, as Col. James McGeehan paid one half the cost individually. Up to 1880 each of the societies occupied this building upon alternate Sabbaths, but at that date the Methodist society erected their present brick structure on Second street, and the Presbyterians became owners of the old structure, which had been considerably enlarged and improved. The Methodist society own a very fair parsonage, and the present resident pastor is Rev. S. J. Colgan.

The Presbyterian Society was organized in Sept. 1848 with Rev. Philip Condit as pastor and Alex Peugh and James T. Martin as elders. The first members included the elders named and their wives, John Carson and wife, Wm. Martin, Sr., John Rowland, Jr., Samuel Kirkendale and their wives, also Sarah Marks and Sarah Arnold. In 1853, J. M. Grabb was pastor; in 1856, J. H. Layman; in 1858, J. W. Hamilton, in 1860, W. H. Reed; in 1862, D. H. Richardson; in 1865, Robt. Edgar; in 1870, J. E. Vance;

in 1875 M. L. Donahay; in 1882 A. E. Baichley; in 1886 Thos. E. Burrows; in 1894 J. B. Hawkins, and since then to this date C. L. Herald. The Presbyterian society owns a very good parsonage.

The United Brethren society have the largest and one of the best church buildings in the village, and are talking of a parsonage. Rev. White is the present pastor. Since the split in this church the local society is not so strong as formerly.

Each of the church societies has a well conducted and well attended Sabbath School.

The Fraternal Societies.

Grand Rapids Lodge No. 289 F. & A. M. was chartered in Oct. 1856, with Alva Gillett, Samuel Blythe. A. J. Gardner, O. C. Carr, John Edgar, S. A. Bacon, S. H. Steadman, Daniel Barton, Emillus Wood and E. R. Wood as charter members. The first officers were: S. A. Bacon, W. M.; A. J. Gardner, S. W., and Alva Gillett, J. W. Since its organization this lodge has divided its membership and territory with Deshler, Weston, Tomogany, Waterville and Liberty Center. But at this date has a membership of 62, owns its lodge room, and has about \$1,000 in the treasury. The present officers are: Azor Thurston, W. M.; C. E. Mawer, S. W.; C. O. Brewster, J. W.; Eli. Culbertson, Treas.; John Bamer, Secy.; Geo. A. Bell, S. D.; Chas. Patton, J. D.; T. J. Sterling and B. Du Poy, Stewards, E. H. Hopkins, Tyler.

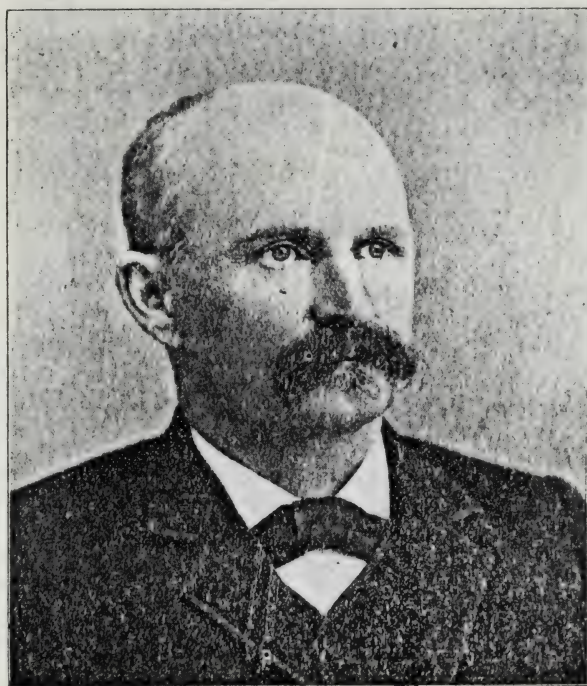
Turkey Foot Lodge No. 529 I. O. O. F. was chartered July 27, 1872 with

with the following members: D. W. Peugh, T. J. Lake, Lewis Bortle, R. Parke, John A. Lake, A. Mead, Hamilton Lake, Thomas Scott, J. W. Yantiss, J. N. Yantiss, Jacob Yantiss. The first Noble Grand was D. W. Peugh, and the Recording Secretary, T. J. Lake. The society has about 60 members; owns its lodge room, which is finely furnished, and is in a generally flourishing condition.

Rapids Encampment, No. 240, I. O. O. F., was chartered May 2, 1888, with Azor Thurston, J. A. Backus, R. A. Housley, Eli Culbertson, G. L. Holder, J. K. Henderson, W. E. Kerr, John H. Stover, R. B. Saltz, Lewis Bortle, E. H. Hopkins, Wm. McCauley, J. S. Foer, M. A. Ducat, R. J. Eger and C. M. Fiser, members. J. A. Backus was first patriarch and J. K. Henderson first scribe. The Camp has about 50 members at this date, and is in excellent condition financially and otherwise.

Grand Rapids Lodge No. 289 K. of P., was chartered April 20, 1888, with G. F. Markloff, A. Pilliod, W. B. Carr, W. A. Watson, Fred Heeter, S. T. Laskey and others as members, G. F. Markloff was first Chancellor Commander, and S. T. Laskey, K. of R. & S. The lodge has about 30 members, and a well furnished lodge room.

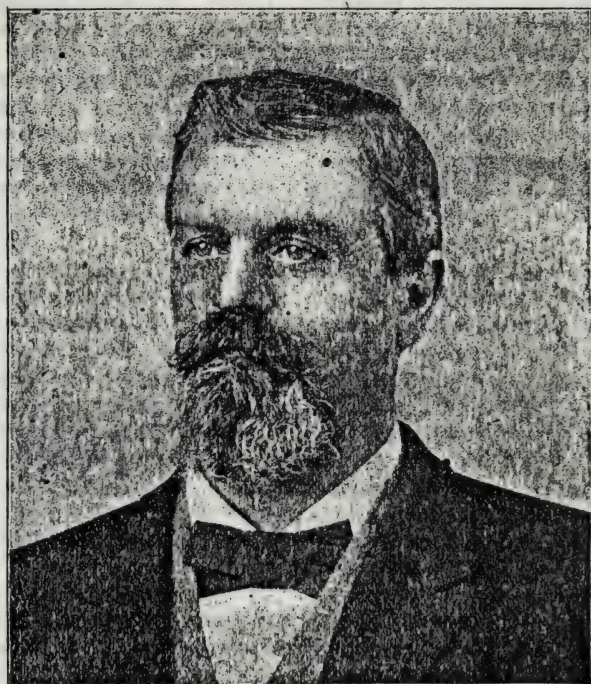
Bond Post No. 24, G. A. R., was organized Dec. 8, 1879, with John McLain, B. F. Kerr, W. R. Barton, R. A. Snively, S. G. Robinson, E. Donaldson and others. John McLain was the first commander and R. A. Snively, adjutant. The post has still a fair membership, but the sickle of Time is rapidly thinning the ranks of the veterans.



R. A. HOUSLEY.

Few men in this section have as large an acquaintance as "Dick" Housley, the genial proprietor of the Grand Rapids Bending Works. We haven't the space to go into detail, but will say that he is a Buckeye, born in Medina county in July '44, and moved to Wood county in '54. He was educated in the common schools and worked on the farm until '62 when he enlisted, first in the 86th and, later in the 182nd O. V. I., and served until July '65. After the war he spent some eight or nine years in the west in railroad contract work, and the like, and in which he got the experience and the other fellows got the money. About twenty years ago he came to the Rapids and opened a

small grocery and meat market, and which he nursed tenderly until it grew into the biggest business, of its kind, for miles around. For several years he was among the heaviest shippers of live stock in this section. Five or six years ago he purchased the Peugh planing mill; later he added the saw mill, and last year the bending works, making the largest plant of this kind in Northwestern Ohio. Some months ago he sold the grocery and provision business, and took the personal management of the bending works. Dick owns several hundred acres of good farm land, and has about the same value in town property, but has got into a habit of hustling, and keeps at it just for fun.



THOMAS D. AVERY.

Was born September 24, 1838, at Mystic River, Connecticut, being the first of the nine children born to Dudley A. and Mary A. (Edwards) Avery. The Averys are of English ancestry, the forefathers of the American branch landing with the pilgrims on Plymouth Rock, Dec. 11, 1620, and settled with the Windsor Colony in what is now New London county, Connecticut, in 1636; being the first permanent settlement in the state. The Edwards family, also of English ancestry, are closely identified with the early history of the American Colonies, and of the branch settling

at Windsor, Connecticut, was the celebrated Jonathan Edwards, who was born there in 1703

Dudley Austin Avery, the father of our subject, was the oldest of the children of Dudley and Prudence Avery, who were the first of the family to settle in Ohio. They came in 1837, and soon after bought land in Huron county, and where they spent the remainder of their days.

In 1853, Dudley A. Avery and family came to Ohio and for a time stopped in Huron county, but soon after removed to Wood county, where they made a permanent settlement. In

educational circles Mr. D. A. Avery was one of the best known men in the county. He was superintendent of the schools at Grand Rapids, Weston and other points for many years, and was repeatedly appointed a member of the County Board of Examiners. He died November 29, 1890. Mrs. Mary A. (Edwards) Avery died January 29, 1887.

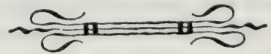
Thomas D. Avery, our subject, received the greater portion of his education in the Nutmeg state, being fifteen years of age when the family removed to Ohio. He attended school in Ohio one or two terms, perhaps, but was principally engaged in work upon the farm until May 1860, when he married Catharine Housley, daughter of Daniel and Sophia (Schlutte) Housley. Shortly after marriage the young couple went to the state of Illinois, where "Tom" engaged in farming until the war broke out. He enlisted in the 57th Illinois Infantry, which was of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division, 15th Army Corps, under Gen. John A. Logan. When the war was over, Tom returned to Wood county, Ohio, and purchased a piece of land in Plain township, and which he still owns. For the next twelve to fifteen years he was engaged in farming and teaching. In 1880 he came to the Rapids to assist his bother-in-law, Mr. R. A. Housley in a general grocery and provision business, including fresh meats. He continued this employment until the early part of the present year, when the Katon Brothers purchased the business, and he accepted a position with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Avery have been res-

idents of Grand Rapids about seventeen years, and have commanded the highest esteem of the entire community. Mr. Avery is treasurer of the township, and has served in that capacity, consecutively, for the past nine years. He is a member of the school board, and has in the past been president and treasurer of that body. He and Mrs. Avery are among the most prominent members of the Presbyterian church, and he has been a ruling elder for many years. He has also served twelve to fourteen years as superintendent of the Sabbath School.

In fraternal circles he is a member of Bond Post, G. A. R., in which he has served in several capacities, including that of commander. He is an Odd Fellow and has passed all the chairs of lodge and camp.

It is safe to say that no community can boast of a better citizen than Thomas D. Avery.



JAMES PURDY

Has been more intimately connected with the history of Grand Rapids than any other person. In a pamphlet published by him in 1882, at which date he was in his 90th year, he says that in 1822 he had been traveling through some parts of the west, his home being in Canandaigua, N. Y.; that he expected to settle in south-western Indiana, but found the place did not suit him, and he concluded to return to New York. To return up the Ohio river by boat, as he came, would be monotonous, so he packed his surplus clothing in a knap-sack and started for Ft. Wayne, traveling on the Indian trails. He states that the fort at Ft. Wayne was still in the charge of an officer, that the town consisted of a large number of log houses, and that the surrounding lands had not yet come into the market. Without going into detail of the long and tedious tramp, it was after sunset of the 23rd of December when he arrived at the mouth of Turkeyfoot (north side of the river). In crossing he broke through the ice into water waist deep; it was bitter cold, and when he reached the house of Peter Manor, at the head of the rapids, he was in a half frozen condition. The next morning he continued his journey. This was Mr. Purdy's first view of the Grand Rapids of the Maumee. Fourteen years later he was riparian owner of the south side of the tumbling waters. And here we may state that the proceedings of the owners of the north and south sides were quite similar. In 1822, Mr. Manor constructed a mill race and erected a saw mill. In 1834

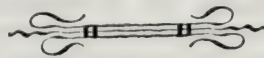
he laid out the town of Providence, and in 1835 he sold his section of land for \$60,000. In 1836, believing that he had been cheated in some way by the purchasers, he filed a bill to set aside the contract. Before the suit came to trial the monetary crash of 1837 so altered the value of property that the purchasers were glad to give it up. (Elsewhere detail of Mr. Purdy's transactions will be found.) Soon after this the construction of the canal commenced and the town of Providence prospered. Quite a number of good buildings were put up on the south side of Main street, and near the river, including a good hotel. But, with one or two exceptions, they were all destroyed by fire in one night, and the town never recovered from the disaster. The hotel escaped, and many readers will remember the old American House, which was occupied up to, perhaps, thirty years ago.

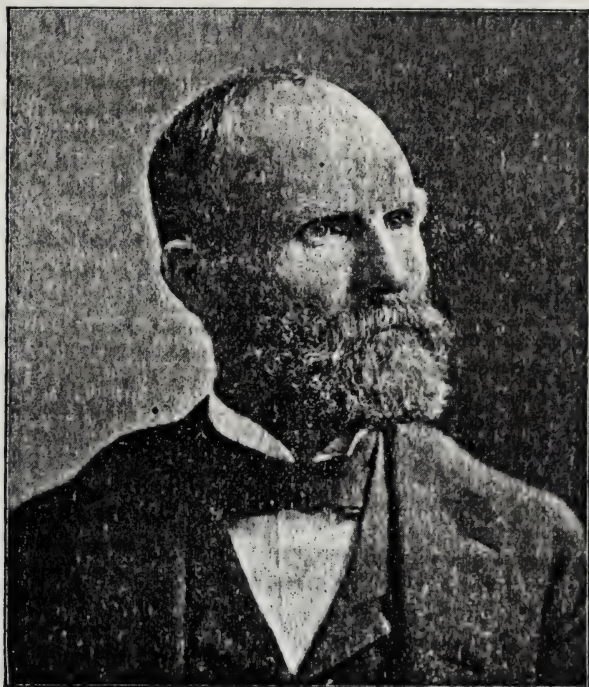
Mr. Purdy states that in 1836, "Gilead" was an active place of business. Large quantities of goods were transported in wagons over the portage from the Bay to the head of the Rapids. William Pratt had a warehouse on the river bank just above the mouth of the present sidecut, and from this warehouse goods were taken up the river to Ft. Wayne and other points by pirogues and keel boats, which on their return brought furs and pelts. After Mr. Purdy made the purchase, in 1836, a steamboat was brought up over the rapids by horse power, and it ran between Gilead and Ft. Wayne when the water was sufficient, and at other times only to Flat Rock or Defiance.

This, with \$5,000 expended in making improvements on the water power, gave an impetus to business. During this time, also, the Maumee canal was located and excavated from the head of the rapids to Maumee, where it locked down into the river. As elsewhere stated, Mr. Purdy had built a dam from the south shore to a point near the lower end of Island No. 1. The state now built a temporary dam from the island to the north shore, in order to furnish water for the Maumee canal, and for the purpose of selling water for various hydraulic purposes. And now a war was inaugurated between Mr. Purdy and the State Board of Public Works: Being seized in fee of the land on the south shore, and of an island in the middle of the river as riparian proprietor, Purdy claimed the exclusive right to three-fourths of the channel and of the use of the water therein flowing. The Board claimed that the river having been declared navigable by statute, the state had an absolute right to the use of the water. Purdy admitted that they had a right to the use of the water for purposes of navigation, or other public use, provided they paid the proprietor the damage which might accrue; but denied the right to take it to lease for private use. Thus the wrangle went on until 1844, when the Miami & Erie canal was about completed, and the state began to prepare for the erection of a permanent dam. A coffer dam was thrown across from the Pratt bottoms to Island No. 1 and the water shut off entirely from Purdy's mill. This enraged the Beaver Creek farmers who were dependent upon the mill,

and they came nights and cut the dam; and this was kept up until the state found it necessary to station armed guards until the permanent dam was in. As soon as the crib dam was in the guards were withdrawn, and that very night a section was cut out. Finally, however, a compromise was effected, and in the legislature of '45 and '46 an act was passed for the construction of the Gilead canal. Three years later the canal was completed at a cost to the state of about \$20,000. Mr. Purdy's damages, including destruction of mill dam and interruption of business for four years was assessed, by a committee appointed by the state, at \$5,000.

It is a question if Mr. Purdy made the most of his opportunities in his manipulation of the Grand Rapids property, as being a non-resident he operated largely through agents, and the property was allowed to deteriorate. His ownership was beyond any question detrimental to the best interests of the town. Residing more than 100 miles distant, and with other business interests to occupy his attention, the Grand Rapids property was held simply for the revenue it would produce. And having independent means he held his vacant realty here at such prices that it was practically out of the market; and so continued for a period of about fifty years.





B. F. KERR.

For more than thirty years, a period covering more than three-fourths of the corporate existence of the village, Benjamin F. Kerr has been the leading merchant of Grand Rapids. Compared with many of the cities, towns and villages of this wonderful country, the growth of Grand Rapids has been so slow as to excite the gibes and sneers of a few mushroom, and other municipalities of the genus fungi order; but, let it be remembered that only sixty-four years ago the only established merchant in Grand Rapids, yea, verily, the only one in a howling wilderness of more than 250

square miles in extent, was Nicholas Gee, who in 1833 placed a wagon load of goods in a little log cabin near what is now the south-west corner of Front and Beaver streets. Now, leaving out partnerships, Hinsdale succeeded Gee, Laskey succeeded Hinsdale, and B. F. Kerr succeeded Laskey; thus Mr. Kerr is the legitimate successor to the first real business enterprise of the village, and has conducted the same for a period nearly equal to that of his combined predecessors.

Benjamin F. Kerr was born in Richland county, Ohio, February 7,

1843, son of Jesse and Eliza (Evans) Kerr, who were, respectively, of Scotch and Welsh origin, and natives of Pennsylvania.

In 1848, Jesse Kerr removed with his family from Richland to Lucas county, where he purchased and improved a considerable estate. He died July 2nd, 1862, thirty years prior to the death of his wife, which occurred in 1892.

Our subject was educated in the graded schools of Maumee City, and at the age of eighteen enlisted in Company I. of the 14th O. V. I., a regiment of which every citizen of Ohio has reason to be proud. August 22, 1862, Mr. Kerr was discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability. In February, 1864, he returned to the army, accepting a clerkship with Capt. S. H. Lunt, a disbursing quartermaster; in which position he remained until November 20th, 1865, serving in the Atlanta campaign. After the surrender at Appomattox he assisted in the removal of the dead from the battle fields of Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge to the National Cemetery at Chattanooga, this work being in charge of the quartermaster's department.

At the close of the war Mr. Kerr purchased an interest in a general store business at Chattanooga, which interest he retained until April 1866, when he sold out and returned home.

In September 1866, he, associated with Lewis Bortle, purchased the general merchandise and grain business of Laskey & Bro. In February, '75 he purchased Mr. Bortle's interest, and for more than twenty-two years past has been the sole proprietor and

manager of one of the largest business enterprises of this part of the country. In the grain trade he owns and operates two large elevators, one in the Rapids and the other in Elery, Henry county. In the general merchandise business he carries a heavy stock of staple and fancy dry goods and notions, hats, caps, boots, shoes and clothing, and a full line of family groceries. The house is especially noted for fine foot-wear and clothing; Mr. Kerr having sole control in this section of the output of several leading manufacturers in each of these lines.

Always clearheaded and conservative himself, B. F. Kerr has always conducted his business on the principle that the great majority of the people are not fools; that they know that goods cannot be handled successfully without a fair margin of profit; that the best class of custom is seldom gulled by the "Annual Clearance," "50% off" and "Below Cost" sales; that people of ordinary common sense soon tire of trading at a place where they can save half a cent on a pound of sugar, and afterwards find they've paid a dollar extra on a suit of clothes; that each family will appreciate the fact that a child or a servant may be sent to his store and will receive the same full value as the most expert shopper.

Oct. 24, 1867, Mr. Kerr married Miss Ann S. Pratt, the youngest daughter of Jonas and Susan (Reed-Griffith) Pratt, who were of the pioneers, and of whom detail will be found in that connection. The family at this date consists of five children: Carrie, who married J. K. Williams, of Delphos, Clifton C., who married Miss Zella Kershner, of Fostoria, Jessa May, Frank E. and Glen B., yet at home.



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